

ON GERMAN SUGAR.

Would Be a Very Sweet Morsel for the Louisiana Planters.

The Boston Herald of April 3 contained the following interesting letter from Mr. George Brickett, the well known tariff writer of Lynn, Mass. Under the heading "Sugar Industry in Danger," in your paper April 1, the secretary of the Louisiana Sugar and Spice exchange is reported to have stated to the ways and means committee that Germany is contemplating increasing the bounty given to exporters of sugar, and he therefore asked that the duty on German sugar be increased.

He said: Now, by virtue of the increased bounty on that weight of sugar—500,000 tons—our treasury would lose 14-100 cents per pound, or \$1,585,000. Our producers would lose 48-100 cents per pound on some 770,000,000 pounds, or \$3,772,000, a loss to the country of \$5,357,000.

As the duty on sugar is not in valorem the loss to our treasury of 14-100 cents per pound could come only by a lower price in sugar, but such a loss to the treasury is not lost to the country. It not being paid into the treasury is evidence that the amount is still in the hands of the people.

The loss to our producers of 48-100 cents per pound must come from a lower price. If our producers of sugar were selling their production to foreign countries, it would seem advisable for congress to do all in its power to sustain the high price, but, if their production is sold to Americans, such a condition is one that should interest shoe-makers.

If shoe-makers and others should buy sugar from our producers at a price that would show a saving of \$3,772,000, such a saving is not a loss to our country. As the secretary of the Louisiana Sugar exchange declares, it would be a loss to sugar producers, but a gain to shoe-makers, etc., and our country would be just as wealthy when shoe-makers distribute their own earnings as when a portion of the earnings are by law transferred to sugar producers to distribute.

Sugar some day may be produced by electric bees, as ordinary bees now produce honey, in which case the Louisiana Sugar exchange might ask the committee of ways and means to provide a way for exterminating the sugar-eating bee. It is apparently afraid that the Germans are willing to do in part what the electric bees might do completely, and it is quite proper that everybody should know the nature of the exchange's demand.

Although it may be an off year for tariff discussion, there can be no harm in knowing that the Louisiana Sugar exchange asks a law that will prevent shoe-makers and others from retaining in their pockets one-half a cent on each pound of sugar they buy. The reason given for asking such a law is this: The sugar producers of Louisiana want that half a cent.

GROWTH OF AMERICAN WOOL.

The False Claims of High Protectionists as to the Wilson Tariff Exposed.

The McKinley organs are claiming that the repeal of the duty on wool has caused a large reduction in the number of sheep in the United States. As proof of their assertion they quote from a recent report of the department of agriculture, which shows a decline of about 4,000,000 sheep during the year 1895, as compared with 1894. This is alleged to have been wholly due to the Wilson tariff, and the wool growers are urged to vote for protection and restoration of the duty on wool.

While it is true that there has been a falling off in the number of sheep during the past year, it is not true that the decrease was caused by the Wilson tariff. The business depression which prevailed throughout the country in the last two years of the McKinley law was chiefly responsible for the low prices of wool and mutton which led to a reduction in the wool-growers' flocks. The revival of business which followed the adoption of the tariff of 1894 has not yet had time to bring about the better condition in the wool industry which will undoubtedly come with the rapidly increasing demand for wool. If trade and manufacturing are left undisturbed by high tariff agitators, the American sheep-raiser will soon be more prosperous than under McKinleyism. To show that the number of sheep in any one year does not depend upon wool duties, it is only necessary to give the official figures during certain years when protection was in full force. Thus in 1884 there were in the United States 50,626,000 sheep. In 1887 there were only 41,759,314, and by 1890 the number had fallen to 42,598,070, a reduction from 1884 of over 8,000,000. Will some high taxonomist explain this great falling off while there was a heavy duty on wool? Why did American sheep-growing decline so rapidly under the alleged stimulation of taxes on foreign wools? If it is free trade which has caused the decrease in sheep during the past year, what caused the greater reduction in years of republican protection?

For Farmers to Think Of.

The \$3 or \$4 a ton added to the price of steel by the great trust which now controls all the steel works of the country will make the farmers' tools, implements, wagons, etc., cost more than they do now. Protection enables the trust to raise prices. If McKinley is elected president the duty on steel will be increased and the trust will put up prices still higher. How will that help the farmers?

Their Wages Raised.

The Ellis & Loring Steel & Iron Co. lately notified its employees of a raise of wages in every department of ten per cent. The change, which went into effect on April 1, will benefit over 500 men.—N. Y. Times.

The iron ore trust (protected of course) has succeeded to mine 2,000,000 tons less ore this year than last season in order to keep prices 50 per cent. higher. This will throw thousands of miners, railroad employees and shipping hands out of work, and tend to lower the wages of those who will be employed. This is how the tariff helps labor.

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FIAT PROSPERITY.

Devotion to McKinleyism Born of the Distresses of Hard Times.

There is cause for the marveling of the anti-McKinley bosses over the McKinley tidal wave which is sweeping over the republican party. It is a craze for which no reasonable explanation can be offered. Four years ago McKinley was condemned almost as vigorously by the republicans as by the democrats. Members of his own party admitted that he was a "one-sided" extremist who could not be trusted to direct legislation. McKinleyism was universally execrated as the cause of most of the woes into which the country was then entering. The democratic campaign, directed almost wholly against the McKinley idea of protection, resulted in a landslide.

Now this sentiment in the republican masses is reversed. McKinley is hailed as the deliverer of the country from the pinch of hard times. His name is associated with prosperity. Republican leaders who attempt to combat the uprising are driven to the wall. The McKinley worshippers refuse to listen to reason. Their devotion is blind and fanatical.

The truth is that the blind devotion to McKinleyism is founded on a delusive hope of flat prosperity, born of the distresses of hard times. The McKinley worshippers cherish the delusion that in some mysterious way McKinley's election will cause a complete change of industrial and commercial conditions. In the current language of this belief "the wheels of factories and mills will begin to turn, cold chimneys will smoke, trade will resume and labor will find employment at good wages." As one of the republican bosses said with a sneer, "five minutes after McKinley is inaugurated the man who has goods to sell will get 50 per cent more for them, the laborer out of employment will get an offer of a job at high wages and the man who had a dollar will find two in his pocket."

Reason is overthrown in a craze of this kind. All that wise men can do is to await the inevitable disappointment which will re-establish his sway.—St. Louis Republic.

A Single Narrow Idea.

"Devotion to protection, narrowing the republican party down to a single idea, before which broader views are dwarfed, furnishes the full explanation," the Boston Herald (Ind.) thinks, for the present condition of the republican party. "Everything must yield to the tariff, and when everything does yield, it leads the nation to comparative little for the character of its presidents; the capacity to pronounce the protectionist shibboleth more glibly overcomes talent, character, and all the qualities that fit a president to be the pride of the nation. Such is typical republicanism now."

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DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

We, the democrats of the United States in national convention assembled, do reaffirm our allegiance to those great essential principles of justice and liberty upon which our institutions are founded, and with the democratic party have devoted from Jefferson's time to our own freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, the preservation of personal rights, the equality of all citizens before the law and the faithful observance of constitutional limitations.

During all these years the democratic party has remained the defender of sound reason and the centralization of government. It has steadily maintained the integrity of the scheme of government established by the founders of this republic. It has, under its guidance and teaching, the great principle of local self-government has found its best expression in the maintenance of the rights of the states and in its assertion of the necessity of confining the general government to the exercise of the powers granted by the constitution of the United States.

The constitution of the United States guarantees to every citizen the right of civil and religious liberty. The democratic party has always been the exponent of political liberty and religious freedom, and its obligations and its devotion to these fundamental principles of the constitution amount to all that this time we have to say to all others. The federal constitution makes silver and gold together as the money of the United States, and that the first coinage law passed by congress under the constitution made the silver dollar the monetary unit of value and admitted gold to coinage at a ratio measured by the silver dollar unit.

We declare that the act of 1873 demonstating silver without the knowledge or approval of the American people has resulted in the depreciation of gold and a corresponding fall in the prices of commodities produced by the people, a heavy increase in the burden of taxation and of all debts public and private; the enrichment of the money-lender, the class at home and abroad; prostration of industry, and impoverishment of the people.

We are unalterably opposed to the single gold standard which has resulted in the paralysis of an industrial people in the paralysis of hard times. Gold monometallism is a British policy and its adoption has brought other nations into financial servitude to London. It is not only an American but anti-American; and it is fastened on the United States only by the stifling of this indomitable spirit and of liberty which constituted our political independence in 1776 and won it in the war of the revolution.

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation. We demand that the standard silver dollar shall be a full legal tender, equally with gold for all debts, public and private, and we favor such legislation as will prevent the demonetization of any kind of legal tender money by private contract.

We are opposed to the holders of the bonds of the United States the option reserved by law to the government of redeeming such obligations in either silver coin or gold coin. We are opposed to the issuing of interest-bearing bonds of the United States in time of peace, and condemn the trafficking with banks and speculators which in exchange for bonds at an enormous profit to themselves, supply the federal treasury with gold to maintain the policy of gold monometallism.

Congress shall have the power to coin and issue money and Federal Reserve Notes, and that this power could not be delegated to corporations or individuals.

We denounce the issuance of notes intended to circulate as money by national banks as in derogation of the constitution and we demand that all paper which is made a legal tender for public and private debts or which is receivable for duty to the United States, shall be issued by the government of the United States and shall be redeemable in coin.

We hold that tariff duties should be levied for purposes of revenue, should also be adjusted so as to operate equally throughout the country, and not discriminate between states or sections, and that taxation should be limited by the needs of the government honestly and economically administered. We denounce as disturbing to business the obligations of the government to restore the McKinley law which has been twice condemned by the people in the national elections and which, enacted under the false plea of protection to home industry, proved a profligate breeder of trusts and monopolies, enriched the few at the expense of the many, restricted trade and deprived the producers of the great American staples of access to their natural markets. Until the money question is settled we are opposed to any legislation for further changes in our tariff laws, except such as are necessary to meet the deficits in revenue caused by the adverse decision of the supreme court on the income tax. There would be no deficit in the revenue for the amount by the supreme court in strict accordance with the uniform decisions of that court for nearly one hundred years.

We hold that the decision sustained constitutional objections to its enactment, and that it has been previously overruled by the ablest judges who had ever sat on that bench. We declare that it is the duty of congress to use all the constitutional power which remains after that decision, or which may come from its reversal by the court, to make it more effective, so that the burdens of taxation may be equally and impartially laid to the end that wealth may bear its due proportion of the expenses of government.

We are in favor of the arbitration of differences between employers engaged in interstate commerce and their employees, and recommend such legislation as is necessary to carry out this principle.

The absorption of wealth by the few, the consolidation of our leading railroad systems, and the formation of trusts and pools, require a stricter control by the federal government of those arteries of commerce. We demand an amendment of the interstate commerce commission, and such restrictions and guarantees in the control of railroads as will protect the people from robbery and oppression.

We denounce the profligate waste of the money of the people by the extravagant taxation and the lavish appropriations of recent republican congresses, which have kept taxes high, while the labor that pays them is unemployed and the product of the people's toil is hoarded in the hands of a few, and the cost of production. We demand a return to that simplicity and economy which befits democratic government, and a reduction in the number of useless officers, the salaries of which drain the substance of the people.

We denounce the arbitrary interference by federal authorities in local affairs as a violation of the constitution of the United States and a crime against free institutions, and we especially object to government by injunction, a new and highly dangerous form of oppression by federal judges, in contempt of the laws of the states and rights of citizens, become at once legislators, judges and executors, and we approve the bill passed at the last session of the United States senate and now pending in the house relative to contempt in federal courts and providing for trials by jury in certain cases of contempt.

No discrimination should be indulged in by the government of the United States in favor of any of its debtors. We approve of the refusal of the fifty-third congress to pass the Pacific railroad funding bill, denounce the effort of the present republican congress to enact a similar measure.

Recognizing the just claim of deserving soldiers, we heartily endorse the rule of the present commissioner of pensions that no names shall be arbitrarily dropped from the pension roll, and the fact of enlistment and service should be deemed conclusive evidence against discharge and disability before enlistment.

We favor the admission of the territories of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma into the union as States, and we favor the early admission of all the territories having the necessary population and resources to entitle them to statehood, and while they remain territories we hold that the government is not to administer the government of any territory together with the District of Columbia and Alaska should be bona fide residents of the Territory or district in which the duties are to be performed. The democratic party believes in home rule and that all public lands of the United States should be appropriated to the establishment of free homes for American citizens.

We recommend that the territories of Alaska be granted a delegate in Congress and that the general land and timber laws of the United States be extended to said territory.

The Monroe doctrine, as originally declared and interpreted by succeeding presidents, as a permanent part of the foreign policy of the United States, and must at all times be maintained.

We extend our sympathy to the people of Cuba in their noble struggle for liberty and independence.

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